

# Conservation Conversations

Division of Conservation  
Department for Natural Resources  
Energy and Environment Cabinet

January 2011—Issue No. 12

## From the President's Desk

Greetings from western Kentucky!

I hope that you all had a safe and happy holiday season. As we start this new year, we continue to face challenges with funding at the federal, state and local levels. During 2010, we asked that each of you contact your legislators with two specific priorities – increasing funding for direct aid and the Division of Conservation and providing funding for watershed district dam rehabilitation. Although we did not reach the levels of funding that we were hoping for, many good conversations were held across the state educating our legislators about conservation practices and the importance of conserving our natural resources.

The legislators are now in Frankfort for another legislative

session. I would like to encourage you to keep those lines of communication open with your senators and representatives. It is crucial that our legislators understand the conservation process and how important it is to us.

Writing letters and placing telephone calls to our legislators are time honored ways of communicating our thoughts. But personal invitations to conservation district and watershed district events are also good ways for the legislators to witness our importance in the community. So invite your legislators to your awards banquets, safety days and other community events! That way they can see your board interacting with the youth and landowners of your county and see that you have a positive impact

on their lives.

My continued thanks go out to each of you for your continued hard work and dedication to the conservation movement. I would like to challenge you to continue to work hard and have faith that we will continue to see new growth in our programs across the Commonwealth. I would also like to encourage you to contact me or the Division of Conservation staff with your comments and concerns.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Rice, President

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

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## Conservation Districts Well Represented at 2010 Earth Day Awards

During the Environmental Quality Commission Earth Day Awards ceremony, held April 16, 2010, in Frankfort, people and groups from across Kentucky were honored for their stewardship activities. These people and groups are notable for having a positive impact on the environment and influencing others to do the same.

Sandy Whitaker, district administrative secretary for the Rockcastle County Conservation District, received an award for

being the main force behind the district's many conservation programs. The Campbell County Conservation District were honored for their efforts to promote agricultural land conservation by conducting a "Cost of Community Services" study. Millie and Frank Anderson, also recognized in 2010 as Master Conservationists by the Scott County Conservation District, were rewarded for utilizing best management practices on their 125 acre farm.

*Continued on page 2*



David Hargis' award-winning photograph



## Emily Crain Honored in Fleming County

The Fleming County Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Awards Dinner and Silent Auction, Oct. 5, at the Flemingsburg Baptist Church. All proceeds from the auction supports the Chamber Scholarship Fund. Awards were given to the 2010 Ag Leader of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Community Service Award, Event of the Year, Green Award, and New Business of the Year.

The Green Award this year was presented to Emily Crain, Clean Water Action Plan coordinator with the Fleming County Conservation District. She has worked diligently with other community partners not only through the position they hold but on a personal basis, and she has been very passionate about improving and promoting a healthier environment in Fleming County.

Crain has assisted Fleming County landowners, as well as county and city personnel, with several environmental projects while working with the Fleming County Conservation District. She is presently directing a Town Branch Watershed initiative involving the community, the school system, the county and the city governments working together to rid the Town Branch of invasive plants, debris and contaminants then restore it back to a more environmentally attractive and cleaner state. She is very instrumental in educating Fleming County residents to become better conservation stewards. The Fleming County community is privileged to have Ms. Crain working to improve the quality of life in their community.

"I was very surprised with the award, and could not have done it without the assistance of the Fleming County Conservation District office staff," said Emily Crain. The Chamber of Commerce felt that Crain is very deserving of this award as she works with personal passion each day to develop and instill a greener, healthier environment in Fleming County. She leads the efforts in assisting landowners on installing best management practices (BMP's) on their farms through the assistance of 319 grant funds to reduce the possibility of contaminants from reaching the ground water in Fleming County. This project also includes routinely monitoring and pulling samples from the rivers and streams in Fleming County identifying non point source pollution problems and compiling the lab results and data analysis. Crain also lends assistance on all other conservation and environmental educational programs sponsored through the conservation district office pro-

moting sound environmental stewardship on farmland in Fleming County. Her work with the conservation district and involvement with the community, school systems and county and city government place her in a position to achieve outstanding environmental accomplishments in the county.



Emily Anderson (left) accepts award from Fleming County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Crystal Ruark.

## Earth Day Awards, Cont.

A Division of Conservation employee was also recognized during the Earth Day Awards ceremony. David Hargis was recognized as the winner of the landscape division of the Earth Day photo contest, and one of his photographs is on the Energy and Environment Cabinet's 2010 Earth Day poster.

The Environmental Quality Commission has started taking applications for the 2011 Earth Day Awards. Please consider nominating your conservation district or landowners in your area for these awards. More information can be found on the commission's website: <http://eqc.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Fulton County Supervisors Hit The Big Easy

The Fulton County Conservation District recently participated in their annual farm tour. Each year, supervisors from this western Kentucky conservation district travel to a different state to visit farms to see the differences among practices. This year they visited New Orleans, Louisiana. The group visited New Orleans five years ago, and they chose to go back this year to see the changes that had been made since Hurricane Katrina.

The conservation district worked with the area conservationist from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the New Orleans area for the tours the group visited. While in the New Orleans area, the group toured The Oakes Plantation; a sugar cane farm, mill, and refinery; as well as a tour of a rum factory where the only rum

made from sugar cane in the United States is made. The supervisors also took a tour of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, an area of New Orleans which was devastated during the flooding caused by the breach in the levees from Katrina.

A tour of a wetlands restoration project was cancelled due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.





## Bullitt County Safety Day

The Bullitt County Conservation District in conjunction with Bullitt County Cooperative Extension Office, local fire and police departments, emergency medical technicians, American Red Cross, Salt River Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. and Bullitt County Future Farmers of America hosted the event. The students got a wide variety of safety training on topics such as water, sun, fire, bicycle, seatbelts and first aid. Seatbelt safety was demonstrated in a visual manner with the "rollover" car from the Department of Transportation. FFA students were also on hand to demonstrate the importance of all terrain vehicle safety.

The conservation district feels that this is definitely one of their best projects, because they feel that there is nothing more important than keeping kids safe and teaching them how to handle emergency situations.

A good time was had by all, and the goal of safety education was accomplished.



Chairman George Henderman (left) and board member Don Samuels handing out bicycle helmets to elementary students.

## Emergency Watershed Protection in Webster County

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, sponsored through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), undertakes emergency measures, whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed. These measures can include the purchase of flood plain easements for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed. Two types of assistance are available. Exigency assistance is available when an imminent threat to life and property exists. In these cases, work has to be completed within 10 days of personnel accessing the site. Non-exigency assistance is available when the threat to life and property is an emergency, but not an exigency.

It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance. The program objective is to as-

sist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protecting destabilized streambanks, establishing cover on critically eroding lands, repairing conservation practices, and purchasing flood plain easements. The program is designed for installation of recovery measures.

In Webster County NRCS determined that there were

31 sites that should be cleaned through the EWP program. These were cleaned up for a total cost of \$119,862, a cost that was divided between NRCS (\$89,895) and other sponsors (\$29,000). The Non-Exigency Emergency Protection sites consisting of 6 sponsors was completed at a cost of \$899,997.00.



The picture to the left above is a severe blockage that was caused from the 2009 ice storm. The picture to the right was taken after the blockage was cleared in Webster County with EWP funds.

## Clay County Conservation District Holds Safety Field Day

The Clay County Conservation District held a safety day at the Burchell ball field, on June 12 in Manchester. Approximately 75 people from across Clay County attended the event.

Safety presentations were made regarding tractors, all terrain vehicles, fires, chain-

saws and electricity. These presentations were made by experts from the fire department, sheriff's department and farm and machinery supply stores.

Along with Clay County Conservation District many local vendors donated safety equipment for distribution to the public.

Those items included face masks, gloves, ear plugs, goggles, chainsaw safety gear and flashlights. There was also a drawing for two chainsaws. The district hopes to make this an annual event because they believe it is an important duty of theirs to inform citizens about how to be safe on the farm.



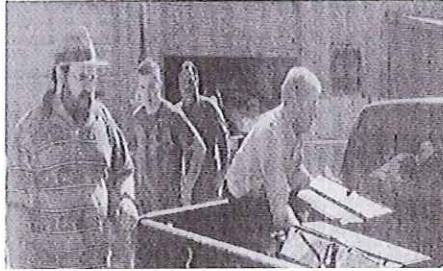
# Recycle, Reuse and Reinvigorate

The Perry County Conservation District in Hazard is making a huge impact in the community. Recent district programs and activities have increased people's excitement about conserving our natural resources. Earlier in the year the district hired a new program coordinator and starting implementing new programs and educational outreach. In the early stages of the new programs the district is seeing great success and public involvement like never before.

The district in cooperation with the Perry County Fiscal Court started the first ever electronic waste (e-waste) program in the county's history. Everyone in the county was eligible to bring in electronics from computers, cellular phones, microwaves and anything else that had a cord attached to it. The event was held Oct. 8-9 at the Perry County Fiscal Court garage. Conservation district board chairman Bobby Brown said the e-waste program was an effort to ensure that old devices will not end up in a landfill or an illegal dump. Many of these devices can contain harmful or toxic substance that, if leaked into the groundwater, could cause pollution problems. Some of these substances include mercury or lead. After the items were received they were then shipped to Knoxville, Tenn. where they were dismantled and recycled. The district and the fiscal court are hoping they will be able to

hold this event yearly to prevent e-waste from being a hazard to the environment.

Seeing the need to conserve water recourses in Perry County, the district decided to purchase old feed barrels and convert them into rain barrels for the community to purchase. Then the idea was drafted to have students from local schools paint conservation related murals on the barrels. After talking with the schools, students began



Perry County landowners dropping off e-waste at the recent event

their work on painting the barrels. The designs range from wildlife to water conservation. After seeing all the hard work the students placed into the barrels the district wondered how they could give back to the art departments as well as making sure the barrels got into use in the community. An online auction was approved by the district to

sell all the barrels with proceeds going to benefit the local school art departments that participated. Members of the community visited the conservation district office to view the barrels before placing their. Program Coordinator Patty Fugate stated, "Having the community entering the office is a great thing; it gives us an opportunity to share district programs with them as well." Taking the old feed barrels and reusing them for water barrels has brought conservation home to many

people, and the district is proud of this program.

"Wildlife is cool!" is most likely what you would hear students say in Perry County schools. Patty Fugate, program coordinator, has been making visits to local schools and sharing information about wildlife. The Perry County Conservation District started their educational outreach during 2010, and the district is already considering it a success. Students are educated about different animals' tracks and scat. While students are walking in the woods they may come upon these tracks, and after this educational course they will be able to determine which animal it came from. The district purchased molds and before each class Fugate makes casts of animals' tracks. These track casts are then given to the students so they can keep them and learn from them. The program has proven very popular in the schools, with the program being specifically requested from the district. This program has really reinvigorated the conservation program in Perry County. Due to this educational outreach, the conservation district expects participation to rise tremendously in the Jim Claypool art contest and conservation writing contest.



Rain barrels painted by Perry County students

If you would like more information on the e-waste, rain barrel, or educational programs you can contact the Perry County Conservation District at 606-435-1725 or online at [www.perrycountyconservation.com](http://www.perrycountyconservation.com).

## Kentucky Farm Bureau Regional Teacher Workshops

During the month of June, Kentucky Farm Bureau offered eight teacher workshops throughout the state focusing on conservation-related projects. Training sessions on the Project Food, Land and People curriculum, the Ag Adventures program and an Agriculture Industry curriculum were included in the six hour workshop.

Conservation district employees and Kentucky Division of Conservation staff attended the western Kentucky location of

the workshop in Paducah. Workshop participants were able to take part in many hands-on learning activities. The information and materials provided, as well as the connections made with teachers, will assist the conservation education efforts in that portion of the state as classroom visits and conservation district field days for the next year are planned.



Pictured doing an Ag Adventures hands on activity are Debbie Seltsam, Cindy Cossey, and Johnetta Taylor.



# Equipment and Infrastructure Revolving Fund Loans

The Kentucky Division of Conservation and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission have a program that helps landowners to have access to heavy equipment that they would not otherwise have access to. The Kentucky state Legislature appropriated \$400,000 in 1948 to start a program through which the Soil and Water Conservation Commission makes low-interest loans to conservation districts to purchase equipment. That bill was then updated in 2007 to include the possibility of loaning for infrastructure to assist conservation districts with their office facilities. The program is set up as a revolving fund program, with the interest and principle payments put back into the same dedicated fund to be loaned again.

The interest rate for all loans in this program was recently lowered to 2 percent. Conservation districts must pay one-third of the purchase price as a down payment. The loan period varies from three to 10 years, depending on the amount borrowed. Many conservation districts have taken advantage of this helpful program, with over 2,300 loans taken out since the program's inception.

Equipment can be purchased for a district in two ways: as district-owned equipment and as contractor-owned equipment. District owned equipment is purchased to be

kept by the conservation district. It is rented or loaned to the landowners of the district for short-term use. This helps landowners to follow good conservation practices without having to purchase a large piece of equipment that they would rarely use. The most popular piece of district owned equipment is a no-till seed drill. Other common district owned equipment includes lime or fertilizer spreaders, sprayers and equipment trailers.

Contractor owned equipment is purchased to be used and kept by a contractor or landowner in the district. As part of the agreement to purchase a piece of equipment through the conservation district, the contractor must make the equipment available for a specified amount of conservation work in the district each year. The most popular piece of contractor owned equipment is a bulldozer. Other common contractor owned equipment includes tiling equipment, excavators and front end loaders.

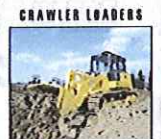
Conservation districts can also get loans for purchasing buildings. Four districts have taken advantage of this program by purchasing a building for their office space with this low-interest loan.



CRAWLER DOZERS



BACKHOE LOADERS



CRAWLER LOADERS

The infrastructure portion of the loan program has recently been expanded to include district controlled dams that need to be rehabilitated.

This very valuable program has been well-received across the state. It has been a success for both the conservation districts and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, as conservation practices have been implemented across the state with the use of equipment purchased through this program.

For more information about this and other conservation programs, please visit the Division of Conservation website (<http://conservation.ky.gov>) or your local conservation district.

## District Hosts Cumberland Green RC&D Field Day

The Casey County Conservation District recently hosted the Cumberland Green Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council for a field day to showcase the many RC&D projects that have been put on the ground in recent years. Landowners from 10 counties participated.

The group toured the Central Kentucky Agricultural Center facility in which the county fair and many national, state and local livestock shows are hosted and the community garden is grown. One unique thing about the facility is that the Casey County Detention Center inmates help manage the facility and grow the enormous garden that provides most of the food for the prisoners. The facility also offers a very nice meeting facility sponsored by the Pork Producers. RC&D has assisted the conservation district with grants to sponsor projects at this facility. One such project was the installation of tile to assist with numer-

ous drainage issues. This drainage project was developed during the building stages of the center.



Tour group from Cumberland Green RC&D Field Day

The outdoor classroom at the facility has been used by many of the teachers in the county. The conservation district, RC&D and local FFA assisted in building a pavilion to provide shelter for the activities there. Other projects included the benches

that were places along the walking trail and beautification projects such as wildflower and perennial plantings.

The group also traveled to Mervin Hoover's farm on which the RC&D assisted with an Environmental Quality Incentives Program project installing a stream bank stabilization practice that survived the recent massive flooding.

The Cumberland Green RC&D has had great success with the many grants that they are able to sponsor in their area, and Casey County is a great example of how conservation districts and communities can work together. For more information on the types or programs and grants available through RC&D, contact your local RC&D coordinator.



## Morgan County Initiates Tire Disposal Program

Morgan County Conservation District Board of Supervisors realized there seemed to be a growing problem with illegal tire dumps popping up in Morgan County. The board voiced their concerns to County Judge Executive Tim Conley who stated "We are concerned about this problem, also. But at this time we have not had much success in deterring people from illegally dumping old tires. We have cleaned up some illegal tire dumps in the past only to go back later and someone had started dumping again." With Judge Conley's insight and the offer to properly dispose of the tires by utilizing the Morgan County Transfer Station as a drop point for tire disposal, the board of supervisors agreed that ridding the county of these eyesores was a project they would pursue.

Most of the board of supervisors had, at one time or another, encountered the same problems as other landowners when attempting to dispose of old tires legally. It is



Morgan County landowner James Phipps takes advantage of the tire disposal program.

extremely difficult to find a place that would accept tires, especially large implement tires. Landowners have to cut the old tires down to a disposable size, and there is a significant cost attached for disposal. Eleanor Holbrook, treasurer of the district said "I think the district needs to provide a disposal program at no cost to Morgan County landowners in an attempt to reduce

this growing problem."

With the program details worked out, the district obligated \$5000 toward the local tire disposal program and on Aug. 16, 2010, began allowing landowners to dispose of 10 tires per farm number regardless of tire size. The district took advantage of free public service advertising in the local newspaper to announce the program. During the first 10 days of the program 32 landowners took advantage of the free disposal ridding the county of over 300 used tires. The tires are delivered to the transfer station as a central drop point then taken from there to a larger station for recycling. The district board recognizes this program has the potential to protect ground water from contaminants, reduce the risk of additional illegal dump sites and enhance the landscape beauty in Morgan County. The program will continue to run until the funds have been exhausted.

## America Recycles Day

The Whitley County Conservation District was proud to celebrate America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, 2010. Recycling, reusing and reducing are all a part of conservation stewardship. District staff placed bulletin boards that focused on recycling in several area schools including Oak Grove Elementary, Whitley Central Primary, Pleasant View Elementary, Williamsburg Elementary, Corbin Intermediate and Corbin Primary. The district was also joined by the Whitley



Katrenia Caddell at display table during America Recycles Day.

County Fiscal Court staff at a public outreach event at Williamsburg's Walmart.

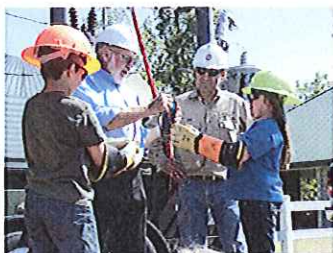
District staff provided examples of everyday items that can be recycled instead of being thrown away while giving away key chains made of recycled material and reusable shopping bags. The bags were donated by Walmart Store Manager Steve Centers. Fiscal Court staff provided anti-litter materials and gave away Litter Lieutenant T-shirts.



Whitley County Conservation District's Vickie Hart, Whitley County Central Intermediate Principal John Siler, and members of Melissa Douglas's fifth grade class celebrate America Recycles Day.

## Marshall County Farm and Home Safety Day

The 2010 Marshall County Farm and Home Safety Day was recently held in Mike Miller Park, located in Draffenville. Over 400 fifth-grade students from local public and private schools enjoyed nine hands on learning stations dealing with farm and home safety. The stations this year dealt with safety around all-terrain vehicles; farm implements; technology and personal space; water; chemicals; seat belts; fires;



and electricity, as well as a station about drug awareness, presented by the Kentucky State Police. The seat belt safety station was especially exciting because it included an actual vehicle rollover demonstration.

Each year conservation districts from across Kentucky host farm and home safety days. They hope that during these days each student, teacher, volunteer and pre-

senter can come away with at least one new piece of knowledge that could save his or her life.





## Butler County Field Day in Provo

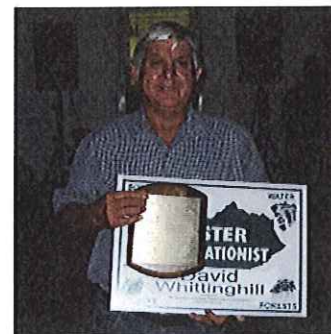
Approximately 150 people gathered at the Provo Community Center Sept. 2 for the Butler County Field Day. Provo is a small community in Butler County approximately 10 miles from Morgantown, the county seat. The event is organized each year by Butler County Cooperative Extension Agent for Agriculture Greg Drake.

Each year, agriculture related topics are discussed. This year the event started with a bee keeping demonstration in honor of Butler County's bicentennial. After the demonstration the participants boarded wagons to begin tours or stayed at the community center for a candle pouring session.

Topics discussed on the tours included twin row corn, soybean population, wildlife habitat and grain plot testing.

After the tours the Butler County Conservation District honored the 2010 Outstanding Cooperator Kevin McKinney and Master Conservationist David Whittinghill. The awards were presented by Butler County Conservation District Chairman Shane Wells.

After the presentations all enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Butler County 4-H club and door prizes were distributed.



2010 Master Conservationist  
David Whittinghill.

## Taylor County Finds New System For Dead Animal Removal

Dead animal disposal is a hot topic across the state right now with companies both new and old closing doors and raising prices. Almost every conservation district board is considering removal of dead animals as top priority and moving forward with different programs. The Taylor County Conservation District is no differ-



Incinerator used by A&S Livestock for the disposal of dead animals.

ent. When the previous providers of services, Griffin Industries, announced that they would close their doors on July 1, the board and the local fiscal court leaped into action.

Both the board and fiscal court knew the importance of keeping a program in the county and trying to keep the cost as low as possible. They explored options such as composting or contracting with a new company, but these were not cost effective and efficient for all involved. During their investigations, the Taylor countians discovered a company in Russell County that incinerates carcasses. A&S Livestock is now the services provider for Taylor County, picking up for individual landowners with no contract required with the county. The landowner is charged \$50 for hogs and sheep, \$60 for cows and \$90 for

horses. The landowner then has the opportunity to be reimbursed \$40 of the cost by the conservation district. These funds are coming from the support of the local fiscal court, an environmental grant from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and county Phase I tobacco funds. The district is very pleased with the service and plans to continue until the money is gone.

Chairman Morris Horn said, "This service is vital to the livestock producers, and it is the responsibility of the district to try to support the program to the fullest. We are very lucky to have such good support from county government and hope to continue to work together in the future." For more information about the Taylor County dead animal disposal program, please contact them at 270-465-8554.

## Wayne County's Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

The Wayne County Conservation District coordinated a farm safety field day for more than 200 sixth grade students from Turner Intermediate School to provide a learning experience about how to be safe while working, playing and living on a farm.

The conservation district coordinated with many knowledgeable people to participate in the program. These included Richard Randall (South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation), Gaye Hutchinson (Wayne County Extension Office), Bubby Corder (Wayne County Emergency

Management Services), Chief Steve Ferrell (Monticello Fire Department), Aurora Scott (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Chris Lyon (Operation Unite), Forrest Dungan (Kentucky Department of Agriculture) and Terri Estes (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife). These speakers talked about electrical and power line safety, animal safety, farm safety, fire safety and how to assemble an emergency kit in case of a disaster. The students were able to see what it was like to be under the influence of alcohol by looking through beer

goggles. They also got to see a hot dog roasted on a downed power line.

The students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn about safety and were glad to receive goody bags from the local conservation district, USDA Farm Services Agency, Cagel's Equity Group and Kwik-Script Pharmacy. "All of our speakers put on great demonstrations and presentations for the sixth graders," said Nicole Denny, administrative secretary for the conservation district and coordinator of the event.



## Initiative Protects Local Watersheds

Last year, the USDA announced a new initiative to improve water quality and overall health of the Mississippi River Basin.

The focus of the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) is to implement voluntary conservation projects over the next four years within targeted watersheds in 12 key states. The MRBI will help Kentucky landowners implement conservation and management practices that avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff from agricultural land. The watersheds selected were based on the potential for managing nitrogen and phosphorus while maintaining agricultural productivity and benefitting wildlife.

Participation in MRBI was made possible through a competitive process that partnered USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service with local, state and national

entities. The Kentucky Conservation Partnership, led by the Kentucky Division of Conservation, recognized the urgency of this issue and immediately submitted their conservation proposal to obtain financial assistance.

Out of 76 projects awarded nationwide, the Kentucky Division of Conservation was awarded three projects totaling \$3 million for fiscal year 2011. An additional \$500,000 will be made available for each project in the next four years through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program to focus on precision nutrient management. Over the four-year lifespan of the projects, incentive payments totaling \$25.5 million will be awarded to Kentucky landowners.

"The division is excited to provide leadership in this new conservation program that

makes more resources, both technical and financial, available to Kentucky landowners who are concerned with correcting nutrient runoff problems on their property," said Steve Coleman, director of the Division of Conservation.

"This once again demonstrates the value of the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program that provides the financial match required to bring this conservation assistance to landowners," he said.

The Kentucky Division of Conservation and the Kentucky Conservation Partnership are committed to improving water quality in each watershed and enhancing conservation outcomes on agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands.

## Greenup County's Great Ag Adventure

The Greenup County Conservation District partnered with Greenup County Farm Bureau and Greenup County Cooperative



Extension Service to host *The Great Ag Adventure* on Friday,

Sept. 10 at the Greenup County Fairgrounds. Over 300 fourth grade students, teachers and volunteers attended this fun-

filled education day that stressed the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

Under sunny skies students rotated from station to station throughout the day enjoying hay rides and hay mazes and watching horse-related demonstrations, including shoeing horses and the use of horses before the modern tractor. Students also learned about simple machines, safety around electricity, livestock care, personal health and nutrition and bear safety, an interesting session with the recent increased emphasis of the bear population in Kentucky.

The Greenup County Conservation District is once again able to make their conserva-

tion plans and efforts a reality with the recent increased support

from the Greenup County Fiscal Court. The results are evident with the cooperative efforts of local agencies partnering to provide very educational and informative programs with the common goal of educating the youth on the importance of agriculture and promoting land conservation.



## Mercer County Hosts Annual Farm Field Day

On Sept. 16 the Mercer County Conservation District along with Mercer County Cooperative Extension, Central Kentucky Agricultural Credit Association, Farm Credit Services and Farm Bureau hosted their annual farm field day held on the Myron Ellis farm. Ellis operates 360 acres on the western side of the county where he raises beef cattle and forage crops. Participation was excellent with approximately 250 in attendance.

This year the focus was mainly on forage production. Presenters discussed how to produce a good forage crop, determine the nutritional value for feed and sell the product. Many specialists were on hand to assist with the day. UK marketing specialist Tom Keene demonstrated hay testing and what to look for during testing; Dr. Ray

Smith with UK talked about seeding and forage production; Dr. LeMayne Ellis, veterinarian with Bluegrass Animal Hospital, was on hand to talk about treating pink eye, administering antibiotics and nutrition; and District Conservationist Brandon Campbell discussed calibrating and setting drills for seeding. The district also hosted a representative from the Kentucky State Police to talk about farm equipment safety on the roads. This was especially informative with a lot of questions being asked about everything from required tags to all terrain vehicles.

Landowners who participated in any Phase I Program were required to attend this field day this year. This helped to further educate those who had applied in the hopes of making

cost share practices more successful.

A meal was provided by the Mercer County Cattleman's Association. There also were displays from many local organizations and businesses. The district considered this to be one of the most successful outreach programs and plans to continue to host the event annually.

